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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

ABRIGNANI et al.

Confirmation No. 1499

Serial No.: 09/011,910

Art Unit: 1642

Filing Date: February 17, 1998

Examiner: D. Wortman

Title: METHOD FOR PREPARING HCV E2 BINDING PROTEIN

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 30, 2003, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.